

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

institution teaching Astrology, the basic scriptures/text being in Sanskrit;

(d) whether the course on Karma Kanda (Vedic rituals) is also proposed to be introduced soon at College level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by UGC, the course in Vedic Astrology (Jyotir Vigyan) is to be introduced, for the present, at the University level only.

(b) and (c) The UGC has constituted a Committee to prepare a curriculum/syllabus which will look into all aspects relating to the subject including instructions at the graduation level. It will be for individual institutions to decide on their medium of instruction.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

WTO Assistance for ICDS Projects

3892. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been funding the ICDS projects in India; if so, which are the beneficiary States covered by the ICDS-III projects;

(b) whether the Centre has posed any such project under ICDS from Karnataka for overseas aid/assistance; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other Centrally sponsored projects under ICDS are underway in Karnataka; if so, how much total allocation has been made for these projects in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank

assisted ICDS-III Project is being implemented in the States of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The tentative allocation for the Centrally sponsored ICDS Scheme is Rs. 65.77 crores which includes Rs. 5 crores for the World Bank Assisted ICDS Training Programme.

Board of Professionals and Consulting Engineers

3893. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Board of Professional and Consulting Engineers;

(b) if so, what are its main objectives; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider its establishment to ensure greater efficiency among practising engineering community and monitor their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The areas covered in engineering profession are very vast warranting wider consultation with various agencies and segments of the society to arrive at a consensus before taking any final decision on regulating the profession.

Recognition to Engineering Colleges in A.P.

3894. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether AICTE issued viability certificates to 22 engineering colleges only, out of 45, for which the A.P. Government had issued NOCs;

(b) if so, the criteria followed by AICTE while rejecting recommendations of the State Government; and